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JH Learns Daytonian Heads U.S. Secret Plane Project

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Col. Horace A. Templeton is the head of the secretly-developed A-11 triple-sonic reconnaissance aircraft project for Aeronautical Systems division at Wright-Patterson Air Force base, The Journal Herald learned yesterday.

He resides with his wife and family at 2965 Green Vista drive.

President Johnson made the first public announcement of the aircraft's existence earlier this year and directed that no other agencies of government be allowed to make any disclosure about the aircraft.

This accounts for the pronounced hesitancy to acknowledge, let alone discuss, the project's relationship to Wright field.

The official Washington position has remained constant in affirming that the aircraft was developed as an interceptor.

However, authoritative sources outside the federal government consider this a sham to cover up the full capability of the aircraft.

Templeton refused to say what his job at the base is and would only offer "no comment" when asked to confirm his connection with the Lockheed-built aircraft which is now designated YF-12A.

Templeton's reticence reflected that of ASD information officials who consistently have refused to identify his job or provide biographical data on the officer, a standard procedure.

The ASD office handling the project has been buried within the deputy for systems management. People in related functions reportedly did not know what Templeton's real job was, so closely guarded was the project.

Some sources have contended

the plane was developed with funds from the Central Intelligence Agency and for purposes similar to those of the now famous U-2.

The U-2 also was built in great secrecy by the Lockheed corporation.

The YF-12A has been touted by

President Johnson as the fastest airplane in the world. He has directed speed runs for record be made to establish U. S. superiority in this area.

The aircraft still has not been shown in public and only touched-up photos of it have been released.